

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS CONSORTIUM OF ALA-
BAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay recognition to the work of the Alabama State University Small Business Consortium on its 29th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1979, the Small Business Development Consortium has helped support the establishment of small businesses across Alabama. From its humble beginnings, the consortium has expanded to include 11 business development centers in universities across central Alabama, and thanks to the vision of the consortium's founder, Dr. Percy Vaughn, resources for hundreds of fledgling enterprises.

I would like to congratulate the consortium, Alabama State University, and the other member institutions on reaching this important milestone for their organization, and wish them all the best in the future.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over President Bush's handling of the budget and to enter into the RECORD editorials from today's Washington Post, "Budget Mess—President Bush's last spending plan only adds to a disastrous fiscal legacy" and from today's New York Times, "Lame-Duck Budget."

President Bush was given a gift 7 years ago; the gift was a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion over the next decade. He has been neither appreciative nor responsible with this gift that America entrusted him with to make the lives of all Americans better. Instead his policies have benefited select groups and special interest. Case in point, his tax cutting agenda has greatly improved the lives of households with incomes totaling more than \$450,000 a year. These are some of the wealthiest American households.

The national debt has grown by \$2 trillion and the projected \$725 billion surplus for the upcoming fiscal year (2009) has disappeared and in its place has appeared a \$407 billion deficit. Based on Mr. Bush's recent budget submission, he proposes to pay for additional tax cuts through \$397 billion deficit spending over the next 5 years.

Mr. Bush leaves behind a legacy of failed fiscal policies and priorities. Mr. Bush stated his budget plan would put the country on the road to balancing the budget by 2012. However, he mistakenly forgot to inform the Amer-

ican people that his plan only partially funds the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for 2009, and starting in 2010, he has planned zero spending. This is a disingenuous attempt to make his budget plan seem plausible.

There are no winners with the Bush budget proposal; domestic spending programs will be cut or remain flat. There is no long-term planning for the alternative minimum tax and both Medicare and health care spending will suffer devastating cuts.

Given the uncertain economic future of the country Mr. Bush's budget proposal leaves his successor with a very difficult task ahead. This is especially disheartening since his predecessor left him with a surplus.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 2, 2008]

BUDGET MESS

Seven long years ago, a new president submitted his first budget—an optimistic document now relevant only as a chastening artifact of a bygone era. In that "Blueprint for New Beginnings," George W. Bush grappled with the supposed challenge of dealing with a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion over the next decade. The president proposed to pay down the debt by \$2 trillion during that time, which, he said, was as much as could be responsibly redeemed. He offered lavish tax cuts. And he vowed to "confront great challenges from which Government has too long flinched," putting Social Security and Medicare on solid financial footing.

The final budget of Mr. Bush's presidency arrived yesterday, and the contrast between then and now could hardly be more sobering. Instead of being paid down, the national debt has grown by \$2 trillion. The \$725 billion surplus once projected for the coming fiscal year (2009) has evaporated. In its place is a \$407 billion deficit—an unrealistically rosy number that omits billions in likely war spending and is artificially reduced by including the \$200 billion Social Security surplus. The explosion in entitlement costs has been left unaddressed and is therefore even more daunting. Indeed, on entitlements, Mr. Bush's legacy will be to have added to the long-term tab with the addition of an expensive Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Some of this transformation, as the administration would be the first to point out, is not Mr. Bush's fault. Even as he submitted that initial budget, the economy was slowing. The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, further rattled the economy and imposed huge unanticipated costs for homeland security and military operations overseas. Mr. Bush tried to launch the necessary debate on Social Security, and, although the president can be faulted for having poisoned the well with a relentlessly partisan legislative strategy, congressional Democrats chose to respond with more partisanship.

But the fact remains that the purported surplus on which Mr. Bush based his tax-cutting agenda was always something of a mirage, and the president has never been willing to adjust his agenda to the grim new fiscal reality. Yesterday's promise of a small surplus by 2012 is once again premised on omitting likely costs (zero is budgeted for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan) and by assuming cuts to domestic spending that are unachievable politically and, in large part, unwise as a matter of policy.

As always, Mr. Bush pledges to press ahead with his tax-cutting agenda: another \$2.4 trillion over the next decade, \$3.7 trillion if relief from the alternative minimum tax is included. The President argues that failing to extend his previous tax cuts would result in an average tax increase of \$1,800. But Mr. Bush neglects to point out that the overwhelming share of the tax cuts go to the wealthiest Americans. The top 1 percent of households—those with incomes of more than \$450,000—would get 31 percent of the benefits, with tax cuts averaging \$67,000 by 2012. And Mr. Bush does not even propose fully paying for these cuts: The budget he submitted yesterday envisions another \$397 billion in deficit spending over the next five years because it would devote more money to tax cuts than it would cut in spending.

Mr. Bush inherited a potential windfall—and squandered it. The next president will inherit his mess.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 5, 2008]

LAME-DUCK BUDGET

President Bush's 2009 budget is a grim guided tour through his misplaced priorities, failed fiscal policies and the disastrous legacy that he will leave for the next president. And even that requires you to accept the White House's optimistic accounting, which seven years of experience tells us would be foolish in the extreme.

With Mr. Bush on his way out the door and the Democrats in charge of Congress, it is not clear how many of the president's priorities, unveiled on Monday, will survive. Among its many wrong-headed ideas, the budget includes some \$2 billion to ratchet up enforcement-heavy immigration policies and billions more for a defense against ballistic missiles that show no signs of working.

What will definitely outlast Mr. Bush for years to come are big deficits, a military so battered by the Iraq war that it will take hundreds of billions of dollars to repair it and stunted social programs that have been squeezed to pay for Mr. Bush's misguided military adventure and his misguided tax cuts for the wealthy.

The president claimed on Monday that his plan would put the country on the path to balancing the budget by 2012. That is nonsense. His own proposal projects a \$410 billion deficit for 2008 and a \$407 billion deficit next year. Even more disingenuous, Mr. Bush's projection for a balanced budget in 2012 assumes only partial funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for 2009, and no such spending—zero—starting in 2010.

It also assumes that there will be no long-running relief from the alternative minimum tax—which would be ruinous for the middle class—and that there will be deep cuts in Medicare and other health care spending that have proved to be politically impossible to enact.

Mr. Bush, of course, inherited a surplus from the Clinton administration, which he quickly used up on his tax cuts. He then continued cutting taxes after the surpluses were gone and even after launching the war in Iraq—\$600 billion and counting. Mr. Bush remains unrepentant. Even now, with the economy—and revenues—slowing, he is pushing to make those tax cuts permanent. That would be fiscally catastrophic.

The big winner, predictably, is the Pentagon. After adjusting for inflation, the proposed defense budget of \$515.4 billion—which

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

does not include either war spending or the cost of nuclear weapons—would be up by more than 30 percent since Mr. Bush took office and would be the highest level of military spending since World War II.

Mr. Bush's war of choice in Iraq, on top of the war of necessity in Afghanistan, has seriously strained the American military—its people and its equipment. Even a new president committed to a swift withdrawal of American troops from Iraq will have to keep asking for large Pentagon budgets, both to repair that damage and to prepare the country to face what will continue to be a very dangerous world.

What is so infuriating about this budget is there is not even a hint of the need for real trade-offs. As far as anyone can tell, not a single weapons system would be canceled. That means it will be up to Congress—also far too captive to military-industry lobbyists—to start scaling back or canceling expensive programs that don't meet today's threats, or tomorrow's.

There is one place we're delighted to see Mr. Bush invest more money: a proposal to hire 1,100 new diplomats. The next president will need all of the diplomatic help he or she can get to contain the many international disasters Mr. Bush will leave behind.

Predictably, the big losers in Mr. Bush's budget are domestic-spending programs—including medical research, environmental protection and education—which will either be held flat or cut.

Even more predictably, most of Mr. Bush's touted savings would come from programs intended to protect the country's most vulnerable citizens: the elderly, the poor and the disabled. The budget would sharply restrain the growth of spending on the huge Medicare health insurance program, in an effort to save some \$178 billion over the next five years. The administration would achieve that primarily by cutting the annual increases in payments to hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers that are designed to keep up with the rising costs of caring for Medicare beneficiaries.

There is clearly room to restrain the rate of growth in some of these payments. But the size and duration of the cuts are irresponsible. Meanwhile, Mr. Bush—who insists that every answer to the country's health care woes can be found in the private sector—has left largely untouched the big subsidies that prop up the private Medicare Advantage insurance plans. Eliminating these unjustified subsidies could save Medicare more than \$50 billion over five years and \$150 billion over 10 years.

Just as the nation seems on the edge of a recession, the budget would also shave federal contributions to state Medicaid programs by some \$17 billion over five years. That is exactly the wrong direction to go in tough economic times, when low-income workers who lose their jobs need Medicaid coverage and states have fewer funds to supply it.

All of this means that Mr. Bush will leave his successor a daunting list of problems: the ever-rising cost of health care, the tens of millions of uninsured, a military that is desperately in need of rebuilding. Thanks to Mr. Bush's profligate ways, it also means that the next president will have even less money for solving them.

HONORING GENERAL
MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS, USA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to thank and congratulate General Montgomery C. Meigs, USA, for his dedicated service to the armed forces of the United States of America.

General Meigs is receiving the General Alexander M. Haig, Jr. "Guardian of Liberty" award from the West Point Society of Philadelphia. This is awarded to individuals who exemplify the Motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" while contributing to and guarding the freedom which we all enjoy. Past recipients have been General Haig, General Jowlan, Secretary of the Army Tom White, General Clark, General Shinseki, General Reimer, and General Downing.

General Meigs' academic credentials are remarkable. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Master's Degree and a Doctorate in History. He also is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and National War College.

General Meigs has had a variety of key leadership and management positions throughout his career including: Squadron Maintenance Officer, Vietnam; Chief, Strategic Application Branch, Office of the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, The Joint Staff Washington, DC; Commander, 2d Brigade, 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia; Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany and Commander, Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His awards speak to an extraordinarily successful career and include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Ranger Tab, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

General Meigs' family, friends, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our entire nation extend their gratitude to him for a career of selfless dedication to our safety and security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, February 25, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 978, rollcall vote No. 69; I

would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 930, rollcall vote No. 70; and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 944, rollcall vote No. 71.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND
FORT LEAVENWORTH PILOT
PARTNERSHIP FOR WOUNDED
WARRIORS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, the University of Kansas and Fort Leavenworth agreed to conduct a pilot program that would allow Wounded Warriors, both active duty and retired, the opportunity to complete a graduate degree program and then return to the Army to work in assignments at Fort Leavenworth related to their recently earned degrees. In a ceremony at the Lewis and Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth on February 6, 2008, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway welcomed eight Army Wounded Warriors into the pilot program.

The concept for the program was developed in September 2007 and presented to the Secretary of Defense, who encouraged the Army to proceed. Soldiers accepted for the program will be assigned to the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth with duty at the University of Kansas. There they will work to complete master degree programs in areas that can support programs or academia at the Combined Arms Center. The cost of the degree awarding program will be covered by the Army. The University of Kansas was asked to be the partner in this program due to its strong relationship with the Combined Arms Center and its superior academic reputation and accessibility for disabled students.

I am so pleased that these two great institutions have come together to provide a way for wounded Soldiers who may not be able to return to battle the ability to continue to serve their country. I congratulate both the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth for their initiative and I invite my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS
PUBLIC RADIO RECOGNITION
MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2008 as "Public Radio Recognition Month." This legislation celebrates the contributions of public radio to America's communities and enduring civic spirit.

Today, more than 33 million Americans listen to and appreciate public radio through more than 800 locally controlled stations, spanning every State and congressional district. Public radio is committed to community-

based and fact-based journalism, as well as preserving and enhancing the archetypal musical genres of American music history, such as classical, Celtic, jazz, the blues, and bluegrass. This source for local, national, and international news, as well as informative, cultural, and musical programming, is a unique and valued service to our communities.

I invite my colleagues to recognize these achievements and cosponsor this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE LINGO AS ESCAMBIA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Michelle Lingo, Escambia County's Teacher of the Year.

For the past 11 years, Michelle Lingo has influenced the academic success of elementary school students. Ms. Lingo's exceptional teaching capabilities have enhanced the learning opportunities for the students she teaches, while her countless hours of service and dedication have enabled her students to attain academic excellence. When asked to elaborate upon her profession, Ms. Lingo replies that as a teacher, she "view[s] every day as a new chance to inspire a child." Her passion for teaching is rivaled only by the love she has for her students, and her unwavering devotion strengthens the school system as a whole.

Propelled by her dedication to the education system, Ms. Lingo began her teaching career in 1996 as a first grade teacher. Over time, Ms. Lingo furthered her devotion and expanded beyond the parameters of the typical classroom, first as a reading coach and then as a media specialist, a position in which she continues to serve. Though some would consider her current position overwhelming, Ms. Lingo balances the demands of her career with a jubilant attitude and exceptional enthusiasm.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Ms. Lingo has attained. Beyond the title lies Ms. Lingo's dedication and devotion to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and have pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Lingo's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the Escambia County School District is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Michelle Lingo on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Escambia County School District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 69: "yea"; rollcall 70: "yea"; and rollcall 71: "yea."

HONORING RANDY JONES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a great American patriot.

Randy Jones served the American people as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1972 until 1980, and then as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for over 20 years. He did his duty to our Nation through two deployments overseas in the war on terror and through his work at the Melvin Price Lock and Dam. At the time of his death last week, he was the Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 27 on the Mississippi River. He is remembered by his colleagues as a dedicated employee and a mentor to a great many co-workers.

My thoughts and those of the House go out to his wife Sharon, and his three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lori and Jeremy Cole, Meredith and Kenneth Zimmer, and Shara Jones, his son and daughter-in-law, Chad and Ann Jones, his eight grandchildren, as well as his brothers and sisters and all his neighbors and friends in Brighton, Illinois.

All of America is grateful for Randy's service to our Nation, and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JOHNNIE R. CARR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to honor the life and legacy of one of our Nation's most important Civil Rights figures, Mrs. Johnnie Carr, who passed away on February 22nd at the age of 97.

As so many of my colleagues know, Mrs. Carr was a tireless advocate for the advancement of Civil Rights and equality for all Americans. During a tumultuous time for our Nation, in 1964 Mrs. Carr and her husband Arlam filed suit against the Montgomery County, Alabama, Board of Education in an attempt to desegregate the Montgomery County school system. Her desire was simply to help provide a more hopeful future for her son Arlam Carr Jr. and thousands of other African American chil-

dren in Alabama. In addition to her legal action against the school board, Mrs. Carr pushed to open segregated Montgomery communities to African American residents.

Not only did her leadership and courage help bring about the end of the segregation of our schools, she helped usher in a new era of equality and freedom for African Americans across our Nation. Throughout her life she continued her activism as a voice for Civil Rights in the Montgomery area and beyond, and was a frequent face at community events throughout her entire life.

Mrs. Carr was an anchor for her family, who will surely remember her as a caring mother and grandmother who held her family together through trying times. Despite her tireless efforts to help advance Civil Rights for all Americans, she always put her family first. Mrs. Carr's passing is mourned by us all, Madam Speaker, and we all send her family our prayers at this difficult time. Thank you for the House's attention today to her life, and to her legacy.

PREDATORY LENDERS CAUGHT THEIR PREY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a February 14th editorial from the New York Times by Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York, "Predatory Lenders' Partner in Crime".

This editorial talks about the role the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) had in preempting state laws designed to protect consumers from mortgage loans with deceptive "teaser" rates and hidden fees. Several states had enacted laws to protect consumers from these practices. Many low- and middle-income borrowers are not able to absorb monthly payment increases when variable terms reset, such as the expiration of teasers rates and/or interest rate increases. Many of these loan products are so complex, that the disclosures currently available are inadequate to protect consumers. The end result is that hardworking Americans are stripped of the equity they have built in their properties, and they lose their homes.

Who would have thought that the OCC would issue formal opinions in 2003 that preempted state laws designed to protect consumers from lending practices and would put consumers in jeopardy of losing their homes? This was so egregious that all 50 state attorney generals and state banking superintendents vigorously fought the new rules. The fight was to no avail—the Bush administration won and the banks were protected.

Greater regulatory oversight is necessary to ensure borrower confidence in the banking system, and the availability of quality loan products in the market place. The end result is where the U.S. finds itself today—with record rates of foreclosures and an economy in a perilous condition.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 14, 2008]

PREDATORY LENDERS' PARTNER IN CRIME
(By Eliot Spitzer)

Several years ago, state attorneys general and others involved in consumer protection began to notice a marked increase in a range

of predatory lending practices by mortgage lenders. Some were misrepresenting the terms of loans, making loans without regard to consumers' ability to repay, making loans with deceptive "teaser" rates that later ballooned astronomically, packing loans with undisclosed charges and fees, or even paying illegal kickbacks. These and other practices, we noticed, were having a devastating effect on home buyers. In addition, the widespread nature of these practices, if left unchecked, threatened our financial markets.

Even though predatory lending was becoming a national problem, the Bush administration looked the other way and did nothing to protect American homeowners. In fact, the government chose instead to align itself with the banks that were victimizing consumers.

Predatory lending was widely understood to present a looming national crisis. This threat was so clear that as New York attorney general, I joined with colleagues in the other 49 states in attempting to fill the void left by the federal government. Individually, and together, state attorneys general of both parties brought litigation or entered into settlements with many subprime lenders that were engaged in predatory lending practices. Several state legislatures, including New York's, enacted laws aimed at curbing such practices.

What did the Bush administration do in response? Did it reverse course and decide to take action to halt this burgeoning scourge? As Americans are now painfully aware, with hundreds of thousands of homeowners facing foreclosure and our markets reeling, the answer is a resounding no.

Not only did the Bush administration do nothing to protect consumers, it embarked on an aggressive and unprecedented campaign to prevent states from protecting their residents from the very problems to which the federal government was turning a blind eye.

Let me explain: The administration accomplished this feat through an obscure federal agency called the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). The OCC has been in existence since the Civil War. Its mission is to ensure the fiscal soundness of national banks. For 140 years, the OCC examined the books of national banks to make sure they were balanced, an important but uncontroversial function. But a few years ago, for the first time in its history, the OCC was used as a tool against consumers.

In 2003, during the height of the predatory lending crisis, the OCC invoked a clause from the 1863 National Bank Act to issue formal opinions preempting all state predatory lending laws, thereby rendering them inoperative. The OCC also promulgated new rules that prevented states from enforcing any of their own consumer protection laws against national banks. The federal government's actions were so egregious and so unprecedented that all 50 state attorneys general, and all 50 state banking superintendents, actively fought the new rules.

But the unanimous opposition of the 50 states did not deter, or even slow, the Bush administration in its goal of protecting the banks. In fact, when my office opened an investigation of possible discrimination in mortgage lending by a number of banks, the OCC filed a federal lawsuit to stop the investigation.

Throughout our battles with the OCC and the banks, the mantra of the banks and their defenders was that efforts to curb predatory lending would deny access to credit to the very consumers the states were trying to protect. But the curbs we sought on predatory and unfair lending would have in no way jeopardized access to the legitimate credit market for appropriately priced loans.

Instead, they would have stopped the scourge of predatory lending practices that have resulted in countless thousands of consumers losing their homes and put our economy in a precarious position.

When history tells the story of the subprime lending crisis and recounts its devastating effects on the lives of so many innocent homeowners, the Bush administration will not be judged favorably. The tale is still unfolding, but when the dust settles, it will be judged as a willing accomplice to the lenders who went to any lengths in their quest for profits. So willing, in fact, that it used the power of the federal government in an unprecedented assault on state legislatures, as well as on state attorneys general and anyone else on the side of consumers.

HONORING MRS. LOIS KELLY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege this past Saturday to attend the 100th birthday party for Mrs. Lois Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly is a very special, even amazing, woman. She has the beauty and spirit of a woman 20 years younger. It is simply hard to believe she is 100.

She is still very active, and I was told she recently bought a new Cadillac.

The article below by Robert Booker, describes her much better than I ever could.

Suffice it to say that through her work in education and her church and home, she has helped make this Nation a much better place.

Lois Kelly is a great American, and I was very honored to join many others in her birthday celebration.

I would like to encourage my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read the column by Mr. Booker, which ran in the February 26 issue of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

LOIS KILGORE KELLY—A CENTURY OF SERVICE

(By Robert J. Booker)

Two years ago while moping around the house suffering from one of those virus things, I got a delightful telephone call. I had committed to participating in a program in the city but had to cancel. Unfortunately, when the word of my illness circulated, some people had me sicker than I really was.

The phone call I got offering assistance came from a 98-year-old woman who wanted to make me some soup or go to the drugstore for me. I had to chuckle at the thought of a woman of that advanced age running an errand for me. But it was no surprise that Lois Kilgore Kelly would make such an offer. I had known her almost 60 years and was very familiar with her community activities.

She is one of the most outgoing, energetic, enthusiastic people one can meet. She can be seen attending various community functions, participating in organizational meetings and offering sympathy at funerals. She seems to be everywhere and drives her own car to get there.

Seventy-nine years ago "The Knoxville Negro," a book of 1929 published a chronicle of black life in Knoxville and noted Mrs. Kelly in its youth section. Under the heading of "Who's Who Among the Negro Youth of Knoxville 1928-1929," the publication said, "The sons and daughters of today are the fathers and mothers of tomorrow. This section offers a view of prospective Negro leadership."

The 1929 sketch on her said, "Lois Kilgore is preparing to make a worthwhile contribution to the educational field. Her ambitions are to become a good housewife and to teach. She recites and is an active member of the Church of God."

I first met Mrs. Kelly in 1947 when I became a seventh-grade student at Green School, although she was not one of my teachers, I saw her many times. It seems that she always had a smile as she does today. I have never seen her when she is not cheerful.

She was born in Kingsport, Tenn., Feb. 23, 1908, and moved to Knoxville at an early age and attended the Normal Department at Knoxville College. She graduated from Knoxville Colored High School in 1927 and received her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Tennessee State University in Nashville in 1931.

Mrs. Kelly began her teaching career in 1932 in Covington, Tenn., before returning to Knoxville in 1934 to teach at Green School. The principal was Charles W. Cansler who had been her principal when she was a student at Knoxville Colored High School. She said it was an honor to have him select her as one of his teachers. She taught there 22 years.

She later taught at Cansler Elementary School named for Cansler's mother. She also taught at Maynard and Lonsdale elementary schools before retiring in 1994 after 60 years of service in the school system.

Early in her teaching career, she was visiting a friend in Nashville and met Curtis Kelly, an up and coming young man who, she said, "swept her off her feet." They married in 1940 when he moved here to take a job with the Tennessee Valley Authority. After his service in the Army he attended Meharry Medical School of Dentistry and set up his practice here in 1951.

Mrs. Kelly and her husband became very active in the Democratic Party and worked tirelessly to register people to vote. They worked at the polls and helped to sponsor rallies to bring out the vote. Along the way, she took time to be active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and held various offices at Shiloh Presbyterian Church, where she has been a member for 74 years. During the sit-in movements of the 1960s, she helped to transport Knoxville College students to and from the picket lines.

On Feb. 23, Nu Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority held a reception to honor Mrs. Kelly on her 100th birthday at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Hundreds of friends and well-wishers turned out for the occasion. She has been a member of that sorority for 74 years and has served as financial secretary, treasurer and undergraduate adviser she is well known throughout the sorority's South Central Region.

Bonita Gillespie, Nu Zeta chapter president and close friend of the honoree, says when Mrs. Kelly is asked to describe her long life, she responds, "I just lived." Gillespie says that, despite Mrs. Kelly's age, "She still drives her own car, shops for groceries, goes to the mall, attends aerobics at the O'Conner Senior Center, watches her favorite soap operas, plays bridge at every opportunity, and does whatever else she decides to do. She is glued to the TV set when Tiger Woods plays in a golfmatch."

Some of those other things are to pick up friends to chauffeur them to activities and to call those not feeling well to see if they need her to run an errand.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday, February 25, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 69, 70, and 71. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL CROPP, 2008 RECIPIENT OF THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY "SERVICE TO MANKIND" AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Michael Cropp on receiving the Western New York and Finger Lakes Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society 2008 "Service to Mankind" Award. Dr. Michael Cropp was honored at the 16th Annual Diamond Ball on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Dr. Cropp is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellowman.

Dr. Cropp serves as the president and chief executive officer of Independent Health. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Brown University and MBA from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2003. A board-certified family physician, he has worked in medicine and led health systems for over 30 years.

His dedicated work and leadership have served several partners in western New York including Millard Fillmore Health System in Buffalo, United Way, the March of Dimes, Camp Good Days, and Special Times. Dr. Cropp acts as chairman of the Pursuing Perfecting, P2, collaborative of western New York, which addresses breast cancer and heart disease, and serves on the boards of the National Federation for Just Communities, the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. His service is far-reaching and has powerfully touched the lives of patients, families, and their communities.

Dr. Cropp's work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellow man with dedicated hearts and committed lives. I am proud to congratulate Dr. Cropp for this great honor, and wish him and his family the very best.

RECOGNIZING VICKY EYNON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in our modern, fast paced world many people often forget to

take the time to appreciate their surroundings. Inhabitants of the beautiful north Houston neighborhoods are fortunate enough to reside in an area deemed the "livable forest." As these communities progress into the future, residents like Vicky Eynon work at the same time to preserve these unique surroundings. As a result of her efforts FamilyTime has awarded her the 2007 Women of Achievement Award.

An advocate for the trees, Vicky Eynon's commitment to improving the lives of fellow Texans is truly admirable. Not only has she dedicated herself to local forests, as a school nurse she is also an advocate for the wellbeing of children. For 23 years she worked as a school nurse for Humble ISD.

By observing and predicting health concerns among students Vicky became instrumental in the fight for providing schools with Automatic Emergency Defibrillators. Not long after their implementation, she was able to help save a teacher's life as a result of the AED. Although she is now retired, Vicky Eynon's dedication to serving others further extends into the local church community. At Atascocita Presbyterian Church she teaches CPR, instructing others in the art of compassion.

I salute Vicky Eynon not only for the charity demonstrated through her work as a nurse but also for her environmental activism. Due to the work of Vicky and her group of volunteers, citizens in surrounding areas were made aware of the construction plans and were encouraged to take action. Her belief in the power of people through positive action is inspirational. As a result of Vicky's dedication, development projects involving the removal of large numbers of trees unnecessarily were reconfigured to allow for a more natural landscape.

Because of her efforts to preserve the landscape of Southeast Texas, Vicky Eynon was awarded from FamilyTime the 2007 Women of Achievement Award. This remarkable Texan's commitment to improving many different aspects of the community affects the lives of countless people.

And that's just the way it is.

ENDORING THE IDEA THAT THE PAPERS OF CARIBBEAN LEADERS BE MADE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the University of the West Indies and its recent push to make publicly available those official papers penned by some of the Caribbean's greatest leaders. These papers shed invaluable insight into the area's national and regional public policy, and their availability would grant a host of students, citizens, and political analysts knowledge of their governments' inner workings. The New York CARIB News article, "Give Us Your Papers, They Would Help Future Generations," published on Feb. 5, makes the case.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES TO FORMER CARIBBEAN LEADERS: GIVE US YOUR PAPERS, THEY WOULD HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS

"Give us your official papers that deal with both national and regional public policy."

That appeal to former leaders of several CARICOM nations, from P.J. Patterson of Jamaica, Dr. Kenny Anthony of St. Lucia and James "Son" Mitchell of St. Vincent to Owen Arthur and Sir Lloyd Sandiford of Barbados has come from Dr. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor of the University of West Indies. He told the Carib News in New York yesterday that such papers would enhance the ability of future generations of students, political scientists and researchers to understand the development of the region's public policies.

"First of all such donations would be a service to the region as a whole," Dr. Harris said. "Secondly, it gives enduring value to the University that this is a place that our leaders see as being vitally important; understand its enduring value; and in that context have a sense of comfort, if you will that what they leave, that part of their life that they are leaving to the University, will be preserved. It will serve to inform future generations of our peoples and our scholars."

Dr. Harris was in New York for the glitzy annual awards gala of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies. Almost 400 guests attended the Black Tie dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan where more than a dozen people were honored for their contribution to the development of the Caribbean or the societies in which they now live and work.

So far Edward Seaga, a former Prime Minister of Jamaica has donated his papers to the UWI's Mona campus; the papers of the late Dr. Eric Williams, the father of Trinidad and Tobago's independence, who helped to create CARICOM, are now housed at the St. Augustine campus in Trinidad; while those of Sir Shridath Ramphal, a former Commonwealth Secretary who later became the University's Chancellor, are at the Cave Hill campus in Barbados.

"We in the Caribbean need a place that scholars, students and others can go to understand, read and learn about public policy," Dr. Harris said. "Such collections shouldn't be stored in a willy-nilly fashion." The Vice Chancellor thinks the papers of Patterson and Arthur would be vital to an understanding of their approach to regionalism and to the policies affecting people in Jamaica, Barbados and the rest of the region.

In Arthur's case, he spent almost 14 years as the head of the government with lead responsibility for the launching of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and Dr. Harris said his papers were an "extremely valuable" source of information and guidance for future generations.

"Owen Arthur has been one of the thought leaders, if you will, with respect to the implementation of the CSME," Harris said. "It was a charge that he took on. He was engaged in a number of meetings and conferences, some of our university people were there, in terms of thinking through the CSME, the integration of the Caribbean and I think we can learn a lot from that in the short term. We can also learn a lot in the long-term in terms of the journey that we took, so to speak, when it comes to Barbados' development at this point in time and the journey we are going through right now

to achieve the Caribbean Single Market and Economy."

Interestingly enough, Dr. Harris said that technological development was making it easier to store and gain easier access to the papers than ever before and that should be an attraction to the donors and the users of such documents.

"Now that we can digitize material, which is what Mr. Seaga is doing with his papers, digitizing hundreds of thousands of pages, it is going to make it so easily accessible and acceptable to scholars in years and decades to come," was the way he put it. "Just plain folks who are interested throughout the region would be able to come in and examine them and learn about how decisions were made and positions taken. We have methods already that can readily assemble and store masses of information in ways that would be able to access easily." The UWI is celebrating its 60th anniversary and many of honorees who received awards on evening were hailed for their work in the Caribbean or the United States. "It was a very highly successful event," Dr. Harris said. "The American Foundation of the University for the West Indies plays a vital role in our University's continuing expansion."

Sir George Alleyne, UWI Chancellor, described the gala as a "special event" one that was particularly true as "our university celebrates" an important milestone in its history. "In a young institution like ours we must mark this early milestone and use them not only to review what we have done, but to see what else we may do and how much we can do better when we are doing."

During the gala awards were presented to Denis O'Brien, founder of Digicel; Dr. John Agard, senior lecturer in the UWI's faculty of science and agriculture at St. Augustine; Prof. Anthony Chen, professor of applied physics at Mona; Dr. Leonard Nurse, a senior lecturer in the Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies at Cave Hill; Kenneth DeGhetto, a former member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees; Reggie Canal, first vice president of Caribbean Heritage Banking at HSBC; Raymond Goulbourne, BET's Executive Vice President; Noel Hankin, Senior Vice President of Multi-Cultural Relations at Moët Hennessy USA; Roy Hastick, founder and chief executive officer of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brooklyn; Marc Morial, a former Mayor of New Orleans who is the President of the National Urban League; Colbert Narcisse, chief administrative officer of Global Investment Bank and the chief operating officer of the Americas Investment Bank at Merrill Lynch; Paul Altman, Managing Director of Altman Real Estate, the Caribbean's leading real estate company; Winston Bayley, UWI's chief financial officer; Dr. Rollin Bertrand, CEO of the TCL Group; Stephen Cozier, Managing Director of ScotiaBank's Eastern Caribbean operations; Vincent Hosang, founder of Caribbean Food Delights and Royal Caribbean Bakery; and Minna Israel, Managing Director for RBTT Bank Jamaica Limited.

Harry Belafonte, world famous entertainer and civil rights activist, was also honored. Susan Taylor of Essence Magazine accepted the award for him in his absence. Brenda Blackmon of WWOR-TV, My 9; and Maurice Dubois of WCBSTV were the gala's hosts. The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor, Episcopal Vicar Bishop of New York City delivered the invocation.

"We salute the immense contributions of our luminaries and other awardees," said Karl Rodney, New York Carib News publisher, chairman of the dinner committee. Michael Flanagan, the Foundation's Chairman, said that the event and the Foundation continue to "focus on supporting the Univer-

sity so that the institution can continue to expand and meet demands and remain relevant to the societies it serves."

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EBONY EXPRESSIONS CULTURAL AWARENESS PROJECT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Ebony Expressions Cultural Awareness Project in Madison, WI. Each year, Ebony Expressions auditions and selects students from Madison area high schools to take part in a program that uses music, dance, drama, and spoken word to deliver a positive and thought-provoking message about the African American experience. Over the years, the performances have left a profound and lasting impression on audiences throughout our great State. Founded in 1982 under the direction of Ed Holmes, Ebony Expressions has fulfilled its mission to educate all people on the richness of the African American culture and community.

Although February represents African American History Month, Ebony Expressions reminds us to recognize and value the cultural contributions of African Americans all year round. Since the time our Nation was just an idea, African Americans have been instrumental in creating and fortifying American culture through contributions in music, dance, and performing arts.

In addition to highlighting cultural contributions of African Americans, Ebony Expressions also addresses important social and political issues affecting the African American community today. The young performers initiate an important public dialogue while transcending damaging stereotypes. Too often, our young people of color are not given the chance to express themselves in a positive light. Ebony Expressions gives students the opportunities they deserve to articulate their beauty and intellect and turn a debilitating label of "at-risk to fail" into a success story of "at-risk to succeed and become leaders." Thanks to the tremendous work of Mr. Holmes and others in the Madison area, we can and will achieve something better.

To honor Ebony Expressions' 25-year legacy of dedicated service to our community, past and present performers will gather this week to present a special program titled "The Best of Ebony" to celebrate the most memorable performances over the last two-and-a-half decades.

I would like to congratulate Ebony Expressions on this magnificent milestone and I wish everyone involved 25 more years of continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF MRS. LEAH GALANTE SCHAD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of

Mrs. Leah Galante Schad, a woman who devoted over 40 years of her life to protecting Florida's Everglades and a driving force in the American environmental movement. Her contributions helped bring about a new era in our country in which organizers, activists, and politicians worked together to implement courses of action that would improve our environment and our lives. After her recent passing, I am moved to reflect on her accomplishments and legacy as we strive to enact environmental policies for our districts, States, and Nation.

A native of Kentucky, Leah Schad became active in Florida's environmental movement shortly after she moved to the State in 1961. In the following decades, Mrs. Schad would become renowned for her fierce determination and uncompromising will to improve Florida's Everglades and wildlife, earning her the title of "The Grand Dame of Environmentalism." Realize, this title was not given to Mrs. Schad arbitrarily. As a board member of the National Audubon Society and the South Florida Water Management District, chairwoman of the Florida Audubon Society, and president and treasurer of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, Leah Schad had the audacity to successfully challenge decades of environmental mismanagement and to lead the effort to leave the earth in better shape than when we got it.

Without doubt, Mrs. Schad's passion and persistence inspired communities, organizations, and elected officials to engage in efforts to preserve and improve our environment. She received numerous awards for her decades of service including: the Florida Audubon Society's Chapter President of the Year Award in 1979, the Women's Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Award in 1997, and the American Diabetes Society Valor Award in 2002. However, those who knew and admired Mrs. Schad understood that she worked in pursuit of a greater reward.

Mrs. Schad fought for environmental protection and restoration in Florida despite the people and institutions that threatened her mission and the cancer that threatened her life. Although we in Congress have made enormous environmental progress, our battle is far from over. Leah Galante Schad's struggles and successes remind us that we must confront adversity to ensure that we achieve our goal of comprehensive environmental restoration and protection.

Madam Speaker, in 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt told Congress, "The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life." As we reflect on the life and legacy of Mrs. Leah Galante Schad, we must enhance our efforts to restore the Everglades and other national treasures to their natural state. I urge my colleagues to continue the work of Leah Galante Schad, and other pioneers who fought to ensure that our Nation's unique habitats and wildlife are preserved for the enjoyment of the present generation and for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on matters affecting my

family from voting on the afternoon of February 14, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 66, rollcall 67, rollcall 68.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, due to flight delays, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 69, 70, and 71. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 69, "yea"; rollcall No. 70, "yea"; rollcall No. 71, "yea."

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the record an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Harriet Tubman: Moses of Her People—She Demonstrated the Courage and Grit of a Freedom Fighter."

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in 1820 on a Maryland plantation. In 1849 she escaped to Philadelphia and immediately began her mission of freeing as many slaves as she could on what became known as the "Underground Railroad", a network of antislavery activists and safe houses. Harriet Tubman is credited with rescuing over 300 slaves. The Underground Railroad operated at night with escaping slaves following the Northern Star. This enterprising operation involved the following states: Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland and ultimately was responsible for guiding more than 2,500 slaves to freedom.

Harriet Tubman was so successful that a \$40,000 reward was issued for her capture, dead or alive. However, this was not a deterrent to her mission. Even with the enormous price on her head she returned south to free her family and made 19 additional trips while eluding her enemies. She was said to have never lost a passenger.

During the Civil War Harriet Tubman joined the Union Army and worked first as a cook and a nurse and later as a scout and spy. When the war ended Harriet Tubman took on the role of community mother taking care of elderly and needy Blacks while supporting the establishment of Southern Freed People's school. She continued caring for the community well into her 80's.

As Michael D. Roberts states at the end of his CaribNews essay, "For all her toughness Harriet Tubman, who died at age 90, was first and foremost a decent, kind and loving human being who only wanted the best for her people."

HARRIET TUBMAN: MOSES OF HER PEOPLE—SHE DEMONSTRATED THE COURAGE AND GRIT OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER

(By Michael D. Roberts)

This tiny but exceptionally brave Black woman commanded the grudging respect of

white southern slave owners. As a matter of fact they put out a huge reward of \$40,000 for her capture dead or alive. In the north they called her the "Moses of her people" because of her legendary exploits in getting slaves out of the racist south.

Her name was Harriet Tubman and she was born a slave on a Maryland plantation. Then in 1849 she escaped to Philadelphia and immediately joined what has now come to be known as the "Underground Railroad" a complex and secret passage used by abolitionists to conduct slaves to the free north.

It operated at night and followed the Northern Star. Its conductors met and accompanied the runaway slaves leading them through an intricate web of roads, barns, paths and hideouts to confuse irate southern slaveowners hot in pursuit. The states involved were Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. And the Railroad's greatest conductor was Harriet Tubman. In a daring enterprise, and with more than 3,200 people involved, this Railway was responsible for guiding to the north more than 2,500 slaves between 1830 and 1860.

The story of Harriet Tubman began when she freed herself and then returned, even with a price on her head, to the hostile south to free her family. She made 19 additional trips to the south and was able to elude her enemies by guile and cunning. She became an embarrassment to the intelligence organizations of the south as she avoided trap after trap and earned the name "Scarlet Pimpernel" for her exploits. Her trips to the south resulted in freedom for more than 300 slaves who were conducted by "General Moses" to the north and Canada. Known for her great physical strength, Harriet Tubman also became widely known for her courage and resourcefulness. Always she was able to confuse the slaveowners. For example, she once let loose several chickens she had just bought in a southern market place to avoid being recognized by a former master. And another time she deliberately took a southern bound train to shake off her pursuers. Said to be deeply religious, it was the strength of her convictions that motivated her to do what she did—she was convinced that she was doing the Lord's work.

When the Civil War broke out Harriet Tubman enlisted in the Union Army and became a spy and scout because of her knowledge of the outdoors and her uncanny intelligence.

She was placed in this dangerous role also for her ability to operate under extreme pressure and to handle difficult situations. From all reports her dispatches were informative and led to many successes for the Union forces.

Not one to remain complacent she also worked as a nurse in a hospital for freed slaves and helped them economically by raising money from the sale of eggs and chickens.

When the guns of the Civil War fell silent Harriet Tubman made New York her home and cared for her aged parents. She became something of a community mother because she took in other needy Blacks who were struggling to make a new life in New York.

Never able to read or write she nevertheless knew the value of education and was shrewd enough to realize that Blacks would have to educate themselves to make it in the United States. She therefore supported the establishment of Southern Freed People's Schools.

Well into the twilight of her years Harriet Tubman set up a home to care for old and poor Blacks. It is correct to say that she remained the Moses of Her People right on to the end of her long life. When she set up the "poor people's home" she was at the ripe old age of 80 years. Harriet Tubman proved that age was never a fetter to advancement and

that complacency and inaction were the greatest enemies of Blacks in America. She demonstrated that conviction; determination and bravery were necessary tools in fighting for human and civil rights. Harriet Tubman has left an example on how to love people. She did what no government or institution was able to do for her people. She became in the process an institution herself. Her exploits and bravery will always be remembered as will be her humanity and compassion.

For all her toughness Harriet Tubman, who died at age 90, was first and foremost a decent, kind and loving human being who only wanted the best for her people.

TRIBUTE TO JUDAH FOLKMAN, MD

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work and to mourn the loss of Judah Folkman, doctor and teacher, a brilliant scientist, a devoted clinician, an inspiring mentor. I am privileged to represent great universities, research institutes, and teaching hospitals and the men and women who make them great. Many of my constituents inspire the world's admiration and respect. Their work has assuaged suffering and prolonged lives and earned the heartfelt thanks of all they have helped. None to my knowledge are loved as Judah Folkman was loved, by his colleagues, students, and patients. The most fitting tribute seems that given by his friend and colleague, Dr. James Mandell, president and CEO of Children's Hospital Boston, which I here enter into the RECORD:

Judah's wife said she was sorry for giving me this burden, to speak on behalf of the medical and academic community at his memorial service. It is actually a sorrowful joy to remember him on behalf of so many. I must also tell you however that despite the fact I have had so many speaking opportunities in my career, I've never been so worried about getting it right.

It just isn't possible to sum up the life and work of Judah Folkman in these words, in such a short time. He was larger than life in so many ways, to so many of us.

On a personal note—Judah and I were colleagues for a very long time. He was a generous mentor and wise guide to a young urology trainee 30 years ago when I shared an office in his administrative suite. I learned by his example. He treated every parent with unequalled kindness and respect and every child with patience and tenderness. When I returned to start the urology research program effort, he was there for me. When I went to Albany as dean of the Medical College, he was my first commencement speaker. And when I returned in 2000, he and Paula welcomed Val and me as neighbors. In fact, Val mentioned to Paula that perhaps if we walked to work together, my IQ might go up.

His contribution to science, to medicine, and the world, are far too vast to enumerate here. We have all heard and seen tributes to him in every form of media all over the world in the last week.

As a result of his vision and persistence, people all over the world are benefiting from his discoveries.

Today, more than 1,000 laboratories worldwide are engaged in the study of angiogenesis. A million patients worldwide are now receiving anti-angiogenesis therapy for cancer and macular degeneration, and there are more than 50 angiogenic inhibitors in clinical trials.

But Judah envisioned a day when people would have an annual blood test to screen for biomarkers of malignant diseases and if evidence of early stage, yet undetectable disease was found, they would be given nontoxic, angiogenic inhibitors to prevent disease from occurring. He said that location wouldn't matter. It would be just like heart disease, where statins are given for control of biologic markers of future disease like cholesterol.

What a vision, Judah.

I thought you'd be here to see it.

Judah was honored by societies and foundations all over the world. The walls of his conference room on Karp 12 are lined with them. His awards were incredible in depth and breadth, including one he was particularly proud of—the Helen Keller award for his work in the prevention and treatment of blindness.

He was a member of nearly every medical society, yet he was particularly proud of the fact that he was inducted as an honorary member of the Academic Society of Black Surgeons.

He wrote more than 400 original publications and over 100 book chapters himself, but it was with such great joy that he brought over to my office a couple of months ago a book he didn't author or edit. It was the first clinical textbook teaching clinicians about how to treat cancer with angiogenic inhibitors.

As I look around this room, I see, however, what will be his most lasting legacy. It is a living testament to one of his greatest gifts—his unique ability to recognize and cultivate talent and brilliance in others.

He grew the program for vascular biology from the surgical research program at Children's, starting with one-half of a floor of the Enders Research Building. He expanded and nurtured it with devotion, commitment, and love. He was always in my office, lobbying hard for more space and ended up with two entire floors in the Karp Family Research Building.

But more importantly, he had this gift of mentoring his staff in a way that is unequaled by anyone I have ever known. His work will continue in the hands of the incredible talent in vascular biology in the program he built.

It consoles me to some extent that the work Judah started with a singular, seminal glimmer of an idea more than 40 years ago will continue to thrive, grow, and succeed in their hands.

Judah's lasting legacy will continue to extend far beyond our walls, improving the lives of millions of people around the world.

Farewell, our friend, and thank you.

REGARDING TWO AMICUS BRIEFS FILED WITH THE SUPREME COURT IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V. HELLER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I have reviewed two amicus briefs filed for consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court in connection with the case of District of Columbia v. Heller.

One brief has been signed by a majority of our colleagues in Congress. The other was filed on behalf of the Bush administration by the Solicitor General, Paul D. Clement. I want to explain why I have decided not to join in signing the first one.

First of all, I want to make clear I am aware of the importance of this case as regards the interpretation of the constitutional reach of the Second Amendment. As I said when the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia decided *Parker v. District of Columbia* last year, I am convinced that the Constitution's Second Amendment protects the rights of individuals to keep and bear arms. I believe the Court of Appeals' decision striking down several gun laws passed by the D.C. City Council in that case was rightly decided and persuasively reasoned with regard to that fundamental point. As one who reveres the Bill of Rights and as a strong proponent of individual liberty in other contexts, like privacy and freedom of expression, I am very comfortable asserting that the Second Amendment ought to be recognized as protecting individual rights and not just a collective right to form militias.

The decision in *Parker* has been appealed to the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, and I had an opportunity to read the amicus brief in support of upholding the decision of the Court of Appeals that Members of Congress were urged to sign. After carefully reviewing the brief, I found that I agreed with the arguments in 29 of its 31 pages, which support my view about the nature of the individual right guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

If the brief stopped there, I would support it without hesitation. However, it does not stop there. Page 30 of the amicus brief includes declarations that "the District's handgun ban is unreasonable on its face" and further, that "The lower court's categorical approach in holding a prohibition on handguns to be unconstitutional per se was correct."

Those assertions directly contradict statements in the Solicitor General's brief warning that while the Second Amendment does protect an individual right, the lower court's categorical approach to reviewing the D.C. laws in question "could cast doubt on the constitutionality of existing federal legislation" including restrictions on possession of firearms by convicted criminals, fugitives from justice, illegal immigrants, and people suffering from mental disorders.

Some may ask why the many Members of Congress who signed the first brief did not similarly hesitate to so flatly contradict the arguments of the Solicitor General. It is possible that my colleagues read the brief as only trying to make clear that the lower court rightly ruled about the nature of the right protected by the Second Amendment and rightly rejected the absurd argument advanced by the District of Columbia that if any individual right attached to the Second Amendment it should only apply to weapons (not handguns) known at the time the founders drafted the Constitution. But if that was the intention, the amicus brief is drafted in an ambiguous way that is regrettable.

I can speak only for myself, but as a non-lawyer who thinks Mr. Clement is highly qualified to serve as Solicitor General, I find it difficult to reject his concerns outright. And it is for this reason I cannot unequivocally endorse the amicus filed by my colleagues. It seems to

me that the Supreme Court will need to take the Solicitor General's views into account when the Court considers the right standard for reviewing the decision of the lower court.

HONORING JANEL'S INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janel's Industries, Inc. of Cassopolis, Michigan, as the recipient of the Defense Logistics Agency's, DLA, Business Alliance Award for Outstanding Readiness Support in the Service Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business Category.

Janel's Industries, Inc. specializes in cable assemblies and wiring harnesses, which have been used to support the mission of our brave soldiers here in the United States as well as those actively serving in Iraq. Janel's Industries, Inc., has supported the DLA mission as well as our national interests by satisfying the military's increased demand for supplies in an expedited manner. In addition, these products were shipped to the military ahead of schedule, at no additional cost to the U.S. Government or the American taxpayer.

Once again, I would like to personally recognize Janel's Industries, Inc. and its employees for going above and beyond to provide such an invaluable service to our military. The United States is truly a better place because of their contributions.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the 110th Congress in celebrating National Peace Corps Week from February 25 to March 3, 2008, as well as the upcoming 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps. As of September 30, 2007, over 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers are currently at 68 posts serving 74 countries, representing the largest number of Americans serving in the Peace Corps since 1970.

Eleven Peace Corps volunteers from my district in southeastern North Carolina are currently serving in 11 nations. These North Carolinians continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities through their work as Peace Corps volunteers. I am impressed with their passion and dedication as promoters of humanitarianism throughout the world. These individuals truly represent the kind and compassionate spirit of my district. Each Peace Corps volunteer sent out into the field represents an opportunity not only to make a significant and lasting difference but to foster a better understanding of Americans throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the lasting legacy of all former and current Peace Corps volunteers and the important work that they do, especially as we celebrate National Peace Corps Week. I hope that each of the Members and all Americans can join to look back on the Peace Corps's honorable 46-year legacy of service at home and abroad as we also look forward to the continued success of this invaluable and effective American organization.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MURLIDHAR DEVIDAS AMTE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Murlidhar Devidas Amte, affectionately known as Baba Amte. Over 60 years ago, Mr. Amte moved his wife and infant children to barren, desert land with the goal of creating a community for the most downtrodden people in India, leprosy patients. Today, Anandwan is a self-sustaining community of over 2,500 leprosy patients, orphans, and other social outcasts built on the belief that "work builds, and charity destroys." This community builds their own homes, grows their own food, and practices recycling techniques beyond those of most communities in the world. Anandwan has a college to teach self-sustaining, organic farming techniques, and also schools for the deaf and blind children of the greater community.

As a successful lawyer during the independence movement in India, Mr. Amte was a staunch believer in Gandhian philosophy and chose to change his entire life to help uplift people that did not have the same luck at birth that he was bestowed.

Beyond Anandwan, Mr. Amte worked with his two sons to build other communities for tribal people still living in the jungle without health care. He furthered his reach when he chose to become an activist for not only people, but the environment. With a degenerative spinal disease that eventually made him bedridden, he traveled to a site for a proposed dam, the Narmada Dam Project, which would destroy the land and force thousands of people from their homes. He camped out in a van on the site in protest of not only that dam but all dam projects in India.

Mr. Amte has received numerous humanitarian and environmental awards in his lifetime including The United Nations Human Rights Prize (1988), The Templeton Prize (1990), The Gandhi Peace Prize (1999), Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change (1999), and countless others.

Baba Amte left this world on February 8, 2008, but his spirit will always live on through the thousands of lives he helped. I want to thank Baba Amte for all he has done for the people of Anandwan and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID M.
NAGEL ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE
SCOUT RANK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Nagel, who has successfully completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. The Boy Scouts of America program recognizes the Eagle Scout as the highest attainable rank; less than four percent of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle.

The process of becoming an Eagle Scout involves earning numerous merit badges and demonstrating spirit, service, and leadership. Scouts must plan, organize, lead, and manage an extensive service project. David took the initiative to develop a plan for landscaping improvements at the Kiwanis Building in his hometown of Fountain Hills, Arizona. David led the project to remove a large amount of sand from a volleyball court in order to turn the area into a park. He enthusiastically installed a sprinkler system and laid sod in order to beautify the Kiwanis Building. Through his work, David has showed his strong commitment to his community and to the Boy Scouts of America, and has developed strong leadership and management skills that will serve him well in the future.

David should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I congratulate him on his achievement of Eagle Scout and say thank you for a job well done.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTH-
DAY OF GOVERNOR OTIS R.
BOWEN, M.D. OF BREMEN, INDI-
ANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Governor Otis R. Bowen, M.D., former Governor of Indiana, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Having served two consecutive terms as Governor of Indiana, Dr. Bowen's life has been marked with great achievements in his work on both a national and local level.

Governor Bowen was born on February 26th, 1918 near Rochester, Indiana to Vernie Bowen and Pearl Wright. After graduating from Indiana University, he went on to earn his medical degree from Indiana University Medical School in 1942. During World War II, he served in the army medical corps and was with the first wave of allied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. After discharge, Bowen returned to Indiana where he served as county coroner before his election to the House of Representatives in 1956. He became minority leader in 1965 and served as Speaker of the House through 4 legislative sessions.

In 1972, Dr. Bowen was elected Governor of Indiana. That year, a constitutional amendment was ratified allowing governors to serve consecutive, 4-year terms, and in 1976 he became the first governor to succeed himself.

His tenure in office was marked by a major tax restructuring program reducing reliance on property taxes, major improvements to state park facilities, development of a statewide emergency medical services system, and adoption of a medical malpractice law that would later serve as a national model.

In 1985, Dr. Bowen received the nomination for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from President Ronald Reagan. After a quick confirmation by the Senate, Dr. Bowen served in the cabinet until President Reagan left office in January 1989.

Now retired, Dr. Bowen resides in Bremen, Indiana. He has been awarded over twenty-five honorary degrees during his life, including one from the University of Notre Dame and another from Baylor University.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Bowen for the great achievements he has gained not only for himself, but for the people of Indiana. His service to this nation is admirable and his legacy serves as a great example of a life well-lived.

CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-
AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO
BLACK HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the record an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Celebrating the African-American Contribution to Black History—the NAACP—Then and Now."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), originally called the National Negro Committee was founded on February 12, 1909 by Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, William English Walling. The 6 founders, who comprised a multi-racial group of Americans, renewed the struggle for civil and political liberty. We now know the organization as the NAACP.

In the early years, the NAACP concentrated on using the courts to overturn the Jim Crow laws that permitted racial discrimination. The NAACP in 1913 organized opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's introduction of racial segregation into the federal government policy. The NAACP devoted a significant amount of energy after World War I and in the 1920s and 1930s to publicize the lynching of blacks throughout the United States and sought federal legislation against those states which refused to prosecute.

Today, the NAACP continues its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

(From the CaribNews, Feb. 19, 2008)

CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CON-
TRIBUTION TO BLACK HISTORY—NAACP—
THEN AND NOW

The NAACP was founded as the National Negro Committee on February 12, 1909, by a multi-racial group of political activists including W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald

Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling. DuBois edited the association's magazine, *The Crisis*, which reached more than 30,000 people. One often overlooked aspect of the NAACP's history is that the Jewish community contributed hugely to the NAACP's founding and continued financing.

In 1914, Professor Emeritus Joel Spingarn of Columbia University became Chairman of the NAACP and recruited for its board such Jewish leaders as Jacob Schiff, Jacob Billikopf, and Rabbi Stephen Wise.

In the climactic civil rights drives of the 1950s and 1960s, Jewish participation was all but overwhelming.

The NAACP's headquarters are in Baltimore, Maryland and it has regional offices in California, New York, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia, Texas, and Maryland. Each regional office is responsible for coordinating conferences in the states included in that region. Local, youth, and college chapters organize activities for individual members. The NAACP is governed nationally by a 64-member board of directors led by a chairman. The board elects one person as the president and chief executive officer for the organization.

Departments within the NAACP govern areas of action. Local chapters are supported by the Branch and Field Services department and the Youth and College department. The Legal Department focuses on court cases of broad application to minorities, such as systematic discrimination in employment, government, or education. The Washington, D.C. bureau is responsible for lobbying the U.S. Government. The Education Department works to improve public education at the local, state and federal levels. The goal of the Health Division is to advance health care for minorities through public policy and education.

As of 2004 the NAACP had approximately 500,000 members.

HONORING LOIS AUKLAND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois Aukland of the Royal Neighbors of America Chapter in Humboldt, Iowa, for receiving the National Fraternal Congress of America's, NFCA, Most Valuable Participant, MVP, Award.

The MVP award highlights Lois' service to her community and relief organizations around Iowa. Lois is the local secretary and treasurer and has held the office of recorder for 13 years. She has been the strongest recruiter for the chapter by increasing the active members from 5 to 20.

Lois has also been involved in many volunteer organizations and activities which include: the Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center planning committee, vice president of the Dakota City Worth While Club, the Girl Scouts representative for JOIN HANDS DAY, and a member of a team for the local Relay for Life fundraiser. Lois has received various awards including the Rookie of the Year by Humboldt Ox Bow Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America and was the inspiration behind her local chapter receiving the Camp Recognition Award each year since its inception.

Lois earned this award for her dedication to supporting women and serving communities, which is what Royal Neighbors of America is

all about. Lois has been a tremendous example for her community, and I commend her ongoing commitment to helping others.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Lois Aukland for her leadership and service to Humboldt, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Lois in Congress and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING WOMEN'S CLUB OF SARASOTA'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Women's Club of Sarasota, which is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year.

Since 1913, the members of the Women's Club of Sarasota have been a persuasive voice for political causes, provided educational opportunities for area children, and facilitated several community improvement projects.

Founded by 63 women, the Club's motto of "Not Self, but Service" has been evident in its many accomplishments over the years. Their first clubhouse served as the public library for 30 years, providing the community with a place for social and cultural activities. Concerned about the well-being of area children, they helped pass the compulsory school attendance law, introduced medical-dental inspections and inoculations in public schools, organized a local PTA, and helped found the Helen Payne Nursery School.

During World War I, the group supported the war effort by organizing a local chapter of the American Red Cross. They also increased access to health care by helping to establish Sarasota Memorial Hospital—a community owned hospital. They helped with the city census, and were strong proponents of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Today, the Sarasota Women's Club continues the same spirit of service with annual educational scholarships, special donations to several charitable organizations.

On their anniversary, I congratulate them for their achievements and have every confidence they will continue to play an important role in the improvement of our community and the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been here.

H. Res. 978, Rollcall No. 69: Expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7 as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 930, Rollcall No. 70: Supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month." Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 944, Rollcall No. 71: Honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MARISSA JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR RE- CEIVING A BRONZE MEDAL AS ONE OF U.S. NEWS & WORLD RE- PORT'S "AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS"

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marissa Junior & Senior High School, in Marissa, Illinois, for receiving a bronze medal as one of "America's Best High Schools" as determined by U.S. News & World Report.

Our future will be determined, to a great extent, by the success of our Nation's high schools in preparing our next generation of leaders, innovators and problem-solvers. Our students must be able to compete for the highly skilled jobs that are driving economic growth. For these reasons, our schools must continually challenge themselves in pursuit of educational excellence. This designation from U.S. News & World Report clearly shows that Marissa Junior & Senior High School is doing a good job in this regard.

U.S. News & World Report looked at over 18,000 high schools from across the country and ranked them according to specific, objective criteria. In order to be considered for the top rankings, a school must perform above other schools in its State. This includes evaluation of reading and math testing with consideration for percentage of disadvantaged students. Additional evaluations looked at the performance of the least advantaged students as well as those top-performing, college bound students.

Of the over 18,000 schools evaluated through this process, less than 1,600 (about 9 percent) were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals. Marissa Junior & Senior High School being named to this elite group is a testament to the careful planning and support by the board and administration, the dedication, preparation and instructional excellence of the faculty and staff and the hard work and high level of achievement on the part of the students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board members of Marissa School District #40 as well as the administration, faculty, staff and students of Marissa Junior & Senior High School for their recognition as one of the best high schools in the United States.

HONORING THOSE KILLED IN THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those killed during the Khojaly Massacre on the 16th anniversary of that terrible event. On February 26, 1992, 613 Azerbaijanis lost their lives. I ask that this Congress remember those who were killed that tragic day.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING AWARD FOR THE SPRINGVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2008 recipients of the outstanding award for the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce in New York State. Grace Gentner, the Johnson Family of Dealerships, and Meals on Wheels. Their dedication and commitment to the community should be applauded. The awards are presented to individuals, businesses, and non-profits that exemplify outstanding service and involvement in the Springville area.

As one of western New York's outstanding citizens, Grace Gentner is a role model for Americans. Grace's kind spirit and dedication to helping others has made her community a better place. Grace has spent countless hours volunteering at several organizations in the Springville area as well as serving as a leader in the community. Due to her commitment to community service Grace was honored with this year's Citizen of the Year award by the Springville Chamber of Commerce. Among the many service organizations Grace spends most of her time contributing to the Historical Society, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Springville Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels and she served as an Extraordinary Minister at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. In addition, Grace has been an elected leader by serving many years as Town Clerk and tax collector for the Town of Concord as well as president of the Senior Citizens. As someone who has blessed me with her friendship I am fortunate to have been a beneficiary of Grace's wisdom, counsel and guidance. I am pleased that her hard work helping people has been recognized by the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Springville's Johnson Family of Dealerships takes great pride in its tradition of contributing to the community. The family dealership was founded by Bob and Bernice Johnson in 1951, and continues to be run and operated by Mike and Tom Johnson along with General Managers Darin and Derek Johnson. The Johnson Family of Dealerships has been a cornerstone of the Springville business community. This family owned and operated business and its employees have contributed countless hours of community service from helping with the Dairy Festival, to the Annual Golf Tournament which benefits Chaffee Hospital. A true neigh-

borhood business, they host annual Christmas and Halloween parties, events that all members of the community look forward to. It is because of their long standing tradition of service to the community that they have been awarded Business of the Year by the Springville Chamber of Commerce.

Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization whose volunteers are the unsung heroes of the Village of Springville and the Town of Concord. This organization specializes in bringing warm meals to the citizens of Springville and the Town of Concord who are unable to leave their homes. The Meals on Wheels volunteers also provide much needed companionship and deserve the recognition of Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year awarded by the Springville Chamber of Commerce.

Thus, Madam Speaker in recognition of their service to the Springville Area, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Grace Gentner, the Johnson Family Dealership, and Meals on Wheels.

HONORING ELNORA GEORGE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elnora George upon her retirement from John C. Fremont Healthcare District. Mrs. George will be honored at a reception to be held at the Mariposa Senior Center in Mariposa, CA, on February 27, 2008.

Mrs. George began her career with the John C. Fremont Healthcare District in 1998 as the interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The district was facing financial difficulties when Mrs. George started. The district was facing substantial debt problems that were affecting the operations and livelihood of the district. That was before Mrs. George started with the company and began to make changes.

Mrs. George began her tenure by negotiating payment plans on existing debt, renegotiating purchase plans with various suppliers, and she found a way to complete a remodeling project that was already in the works. She applied for and was awarded grants to assist in purchasing new equipment. With this additional funding the district was able to complete the renovation of, and expand, the emergency department. This was just the beginning of the expansion.

John C. Fremont Healthcare District, with the guidance of Mrs. George, has been able to expand their services across the board. They are currently contracted with Mariposa County to provide medical services to the County Adult Detention Facility. A joint effort between the district and the County Health Department has made it possible for the establishment of a County Medical Services Program through a MediCal Wellness Grant to provide psychiatry services to the poor and underserved in the county. The surgery department has been reopened for outpatient surgeries and procedures. New imaging services have been added along with the most up-to-date technologies including CT, ultrasound, and MRI equipment. Mrs. George was able to achieve accreditation as a Critical Access

Hospital and had the area designated as a Healthcare Physician Shortage Area. This accreditation and designation have allowed the district to expand the education department to include community classes and a nursing assistant program.

More recently, under Mrs. George's leadership, a Private Duty department was created. This department provides nursing, home-making and handyman services. Telemedicine is now in use for physician consultations in the clinics and for in-home units for personal health monitoring. Finally, the Northside Clinic in Greeley Hill was opened for family practice care.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the accomplishments of Elnora George upon her retirement from John C. Fremont Healthcare District. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. George many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the "Public Health Preparedness Workforce Development Act of 2008." This much-needed legislation will help provide the critical workers that our public health community so desperately needs.

These skilled public health professionals include the nurses, epidemiologists, lab technicians, and others who keep our communities healthy and safe. They deliver our vaccines, ensure that our drinking water is safe, test for infectious diseases, and serve as our front-line defense against biological and chemical attacks. The responsibilities of our public health workers reach into our daily lives.

Unfortunately, our country has underinvested in this critical area for decades, and our public health workforce is near the breaking point.

We are simply not producing or retaining enough public health workers to meet the increasing demand for their essential services. Nearly a quarter of the public health workforce is set to retire by 2012.

As a result, the Association of Schools of Public Health estimates that our country's public health schools would have to train three times the current number of graduates over the next 12 years just to maintain current levels of preparedness.

We cannot continue to underestimate or undervalue the importance of a strong public health system. As we focus on preventing outbreaks and attacks through preparedness and vigilance, we will rely ever more heavily on our public health workers.

However, public health positions are often not economically competitive with those offered by the private sector. We must create the proper incentives offered for our Nation's brightest public health graduates to serve in the public sector, and the Public Health Preparedness Workforce Development Act is a strong step toward doing so.

It offers scholarships, loan repayment programs, and mid-career training grants to recent public health graduates and to current

public health employees looking to supplement their education. It also creates an electronic clearinghouse to make it easier for workers to find available public health positions to the Federal Government.

Additionally, this bill will improve the training of public health workers and introduce many more of them to the field by spurring the creation of academic health departments. These departments, formed by the union of State and

local health agencies with schools of public health, will serve as training grounds analogous to medical schools and teaching hospitals.

Closer coordination between academia and the people we charge with protecting the public welfare is essential to keeping our constituents safe from threats like avian flu, staph infections, and other public health challenges. By melding the academic and the practical,

this legislation will significantly improve our ability to respond effectively to public health emergencies.

A strong and robust public health workforce is not a luxury, Madam Speaker. It is a necessity. The Public Health Preparedness Workforce Development all my colleagues to support it.